

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1
INCIDENT NO. 2006-035
DATE: July 13, 2006 Time: 6:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Summer Storm** -- A severe summer storm, accompanied by a microburst that produced winds of up to 100 miles per hour (mph), struck the city of Coleharbor on July 12, downing power lines, leveling buildings, overturning cars, and blowing grain bins off their foundations.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** Initial reports indicated two citizens received minor injuries.
3. **DAMAGES:** The National Weather Service (NWS) Meteorologist-in-Charge at Bismarck reported a damaging thunderstorm moved into the Coleharbor area at 7:40 p.m. July 12 after initially developing during the early afternoon hours over and south of the Lake Sakakawea area. An assessment by the NWS indicated the storm produced microburst winds strong enough to tip over an empty train car and destroy structures. Initial reports by the McLean County Emergency Manager indicated approximately 46 structures had been damaged or destroyed in the city of Coleharbor to include several homes and public buildings. A grain elevator and a brick school house were decimated. Local officials are currently assessing damages.

The Superintendent of the North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) reported that approximately 85 percent of the 60 buildings in Coleharbor sustained damages. Straight line winds leveled steel sheds, damaged roofs and windows and broke trees. At least one family lost its home. Electrical power is out until repairs can be made to downed power lines. Debris was strewn across N.D. Highway 83.

As of the afternoon of July 13, city water was working and 60 percent of the telephone service had been restored. Power has not been restored.

In other areas of the state, a line of severe thunderstorms, extending from near Coleharbor northeast to Balta, toppled a 600-pound motorcycle approximately 14 miles south of Minot and produced nickel-sized hail in Glen Ullin in Morton County. In the city of Towner in McHenry County, power lines were downed, and in neighboring Pierce County, structural damage was reported in Balta. A final report will be prepared and released by the Bismarck NWS later this evening and posted at www.weather.gov/bismarck.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Responding agencies include ambulance crews, fire departments, dispatch centers, law enforcement, county and city public works crews, park boards, local officials and emergency management.

STATE: State agencies providing assistance to local responders include the Governor's Office, the N.D. Highway Patrol, the N.D. Department of Human Services, N.D. Department of Transportation, the State Electrical Board, the N.D. Department of Health and the Department of Emergency Services' Divisions of State Radio and Homeland Security.

FEDERAL: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is monitoring the situation.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross provided temporary sheltering for one family whose home was destroyed. The Salvation Army was providing shelter, food and water as well.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On July 13, Governor John Hoeven traveled to Coleharbor to review damage and lend support following a severe storm that hit the community Wednesday night. Hoeven met with the city Mayor, the county Emergency Manager and other city and county officials.

Numerous first responders were on scene immediately following the incident. State and local officials went house-to-house late Wednesday to check on residents. The McLean County Sheriff's Department responded along with ambulance crews from Underwood, Washburn, Riverdale and Turtle Lake. Ottertail Power Cooperative and McLean Rural Electric Cooperative were requested to repair electrical power lines and restore service to the city and area communities. The public works crew from the city of Underwood has been assisting with debris removal.

NDHP troopers are on scene assisting with public safety and traffic control. They are ensuring traffic flow on U.S. Highway 83 and restricting access to Coleharbor to area residents.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT) has been removing debris in the aftermath of high winds, hail and rain.

The N.D. Department of Human Services (NDDHS) is coordinating relief efforts through the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross.

The State Electrical Board (SEB) issued a public service announcement reminding citizens to call a professional electrical contractor if the recent storm tore or pulled electrical cable or pipe away from homes or businesses.

The SEB has been coordinating with Ottertail Power Company, which provides service to Coleharbor, and McLean Electrical Cooperative, which provides service to the surrounding area, regarding electrical power on-premise wiring.

Individuals with damages have been requested to notify the McLean County Emergency Manager's office at (701) 462-8541 when telephone service is restored.

Individuals and families with immediate needs, such as housing, have also been informed to contact the Emergency Manager's office or the local chapter of the American Red Cross at (701) 463-2583. Residents were requested to contact their insurance agencies for damage coverage information.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional assistance has been requested at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No additional outside help has been requested.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/des>.

Greg Wilz, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security